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04-26-04

17248

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Kenneth J. Boutte and Ban D. Green

Serial No. 09/900,264

Filing Date: July 06, 2001

Examiner: Popovics, Robert J.

For: Method for handling
and Disposing of Drill Cuttings

Art Unit: 1724

*2201x1
2202x4*

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF DECEMBER 23, 2004

April 23, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 23, 2004, kindly note the following:

Applicants have previously filed a Petition under 37 CFR 1.136 for a one-month extension of time.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please note that claim 28 has been amended. Please add new claims 36 – 41. The amendments to claim 28 and new claims 36 – 41 are set forth in the complete listing of all claims attached hereto.

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-35 are pending in the application, of which claims 11 – 21 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 36 – 41 have been added with this response. The examiner has previously allowed claims 1 – 10, 22 – 24, 32 and 33. Claims 25 – 27 were rejected. Claims 28 – 31, 34 and 35 were objected to.

04/27/2004 FMEK11 00000090 09900264

01 FC:2201
02 FC:2202

43.00 OP
36.00 OP

04-26-04

17248



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Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is an Amendment in response to the Office Action on the merits dated December 23, 2003 in the above identified application. A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time was previously filed.

Claims 1 – 35 are pending in this application of which, Claims 11 – 21 are withdrawn. New Claims 36-41 have been added . With this amendment, there are four (4) new dependent claims. The fee for each dependent claim in excess of 20 is \$9.00. The total fee for the additional dependent claims is 4 x \$9.00 = \$36.00. One (1) new independent claim has been added. The fee for each independent claim in excess of 3 is \$43.00. The total fee for the additional impendent claim is 1 x \$43.00 = \$43.00. The total additional fees due is \$79.00. A U.S. Postal Service Money Order in the amount of \$79.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for the additional claims. Also enclosed is a Certificate of Mailing.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

William W. Stagg
Reg. No. 31,225
Attorney for Applicant

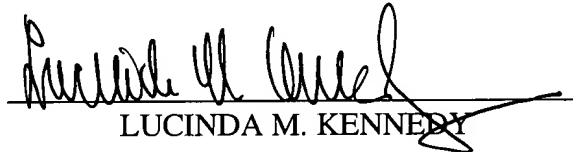
WWS/lmk

Enclosures: Response to Office Action of 12/23/03
U.S. Postal Money Order in the amount of \$79.00
Certificate of Mailing
Return Receipt Postcard



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Lucinda M. Kennedy, certify that the foregoing Response to Office Action and Money Order in the amount of \$79.00 is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service by Express Mail (#ER 521294581 US) addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of April, 2004.


LUCINDA M. KENNEDY